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*Office Memorandum* • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chief, G  
THRU : Acting Chief, D/GG *GRH*  
FROM : Chief, GG/S

DATE: 10 June 1958

SUBJECT: Requirement for IPC Special Priority List

The following requirement is suggested for consideration for possible inclusion in the IPC special priority list.

Volga-Baltic Water RouteBackground

The Volga-Baltic Water Route, 361 km. long (Vytegra on Lake Onega to Cherepovets on the Rybinsk Reservoir) is currently being reconstructed to provide a deep-water system joining the Caspian, Azov, Black, Baltic and White seas. It will permit passage of ships up to 4,000 tons cargo deadweight. This would permit the transfer of all types of submarines as well as small and medium destroyers between the maritime areas of the north and south. The old waterway system was able to handle ships of not more than 800 tons cargo deadweight and medium sized submarines were able to use the system only with the aid of pontoons or transporter docks.

Requirement

Estimates for the completion of this vital water route for navigation range from as early as the end of 1959 to the 1962 navigation season with all construction work including the operation of hydro-stations completed by 1964. Specific information is requested that would indicate the intensity of Soviet effort to complete this strategic waterway and the target date.

Justification

Access to the Central Industrial Region by submarines capable of launching guided missiles would greatly aid their logistical support. Improvement of the waterway would facilitate both movement and deployment of naval vessels and military support vessels and would contribute to the economy in the form of increased tonnage hauled and reduced travel time.

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